WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all Wisconsinites and all visitors to our state; and

WHEREAS; our hospitals and medical centers require a readily available blood supply to treat our residents and visitors, making a sufficient supply a public health priority both locally and nationally; and

WHEREAS; only around three percent of the U.S. population donates blood yearly, although only 38 percent of Americans are actually eligible, due in part to discriminatory policies at the federal level that make it difficult for many LGBTQ Americans—and gay men, in particular—to donate blood; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is home to numerous organizations committed to raising awareness about the importance of blood donation, including the American Red Cross, Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin, and more; and

WHEREAS; one blood donation has the potential to help save the lives of up to three patients, underscoring the importance of constantly replenishing our blood supply through donations and community awareness; and

WHEREAS; today, we are reminded of our Wisconsin values of kindness, respect, empathy, and compassion, which we can all embody through supporting our local blood drives and protecting our fellow Wisconsinites;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim September 4, 2021, as

## WISCONSIN BLOOD DONATION DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all our state's residents.

*	ne at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 2nd day of July 2	
TONY EVERS, Governor		
By the Governor:		
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Sec	cretary of State	